

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-40 and 42-59 are pending. By this amendment Claims 38, 42, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49 and 50 are amended, Claim 41 is canceled and new Claims 54-59 are added..

Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication that Claims 1-37 and 53 are allowed, and that Claims 41, 43-47, 49 and 50 contain allowable subject matter.

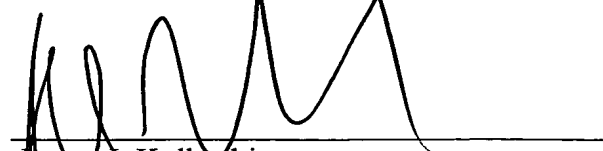
The Office Action rejects Claims 38-40, 42, 48, 51 and 52 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over JP 11-007191 to Kimura. Claim 38 is amended to incorporate the allowable features of Claim 41. Claims 44-47, 49, and 50 are placed in independent form.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James J. Kulbaski', is written over a horizontal line.

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